

§ 103.26 Procedure in the event of a demand for Customs information in a state or local criminal proceeding.

Port directors, special agents in charge, and chiefs of field laboratories may, in the interest of federal, state, and local law enforcement, upon receipt of demands of state or local authorities, and at the expense of the State, authorize employees under their supervision to attend trials and administrative hearings on behalf of the government in any state or local criminal case, to produce records, and to testify as to facts coming to their knowledge in their official capacities. However, in cases where a defendant in a state or local criminal case demands testimony or the production of Customs documents or information, authorization from the Chief Counsel is required as under § 103.22 of this subpart. No disclosure of information under this section shall be made if any of the factors listed in § 103.23(b) of this subpart are present.

§ 103.27 Procedure in the event of a demand for Customs information in a foreign proceeding.

(a) *Required prior approval for disclosure.* In any foreign proceeding in which the Customs Service is not a party, no Customs employee shall, in response to a demand, furnish Customs documents or testimony as to any material contained in Customs files, any information relating to or based upon material contained in Customs files, or any information or material acquired as part of the performance of that person's official duties (or because of that person's official status) without the prior approval of the Chief Counsel, as described in paragraph (b) of this section.

(b) *Employee notification to Counsel.* Whenever a demand in a foreign proceeding is made upon a Customs employee concerning pre-clearance activities within the territory of the foreign country, that employee shall immediately notify the appropriate Associate Chief Counsel responsible for the pre-clearance location. All other demands in a foreign proceeding shall be reported by Customs employees to the Chief Counsel. The Customs employee shall then await instructions from the

Chief Counsel concerning the response to the demand.

(c) *Counsel notification to originating component.* Upon receipt of a proper demand for Customs information, one which complies with the provisions of § 103.22(c), if the Chief Counsel believes that it will comply with any part of the demand, it will immediately advise the originating component.

(d) *Conditions for authorization of disclosure.* The Chief Counsel, subject to the terms of paragraph (e) of this section, may authorize the disclosure of Customs documents or the appearance and testimony of a Customs employee if:

(1) Production of the demanded documents or testimony, in the judgment of the Chief Counsel, are appropriate under the factors specified in § 103.23(a) of this subpart; and

(2) None of the factors specified in § 103.23(b) of this subpart exist with respect to the demanded documents or testimony.

(e) *Limitations on the scope of authorized disclosure.* (1) The Chief Counsel shall authorize the disclosure of Customs information by a Customs employee without further authorization from Customs officials whenever possible, provided that:

(i) If necessary, Counsel has consulted with the originating component regarding disclosure of the information demanded;

(ii) There is no objection from the originating component to the disclosure of the information demanded; and

(iii) Counsel has sought to limit the demand for information to that which would be consistent with the factors specified in § 103.23 of this part.

(2) In the case of an objection by the originating component, the Chief Counsel shall make the disclosure determination.

Subpart C—Other Information Subject to Restricted Access**§ 103.31 Information on vessel manifests and summary statistical reports.**

(a) *Disclosure to members of the press.* Accredited representatives of the press, including newspapers, commercial magazines, trade journals, and similar